



2019 Solar Congress Speakers



Pat Kemp, Hillsborough County Commissioner

Patricia "Pat" Kemp was elected to the County Commission in 2016, representing Countywide District 6. Commissioner Kemp has more than three decades of public service in Hillsborough County. She was Chief Aide to Congresswoman Kathy Castor when Castor served on the Hillsborough County Commission. She also served as Aide to State Representative Sara Romeo. An attorney, she worked both in private practice and for Bay Area Legal Services, providing civil legal services for low income clients. As a journalist, she served as news director and a radio talk show host at WUSF and WMNF. Over the years, Commissioner Kemp has volunteered for many community projects and organizations. She co-founded the Old Seminole Heights Neighborhood Association (OSHNA). She served in leadership roles at the Sierra Club of Tampa Bay and on the Board of Tampa Crossroads, a nonprofit that provides counseling, treatment, housing and other services to veterans, the disabled and others in need of assistance. Commissioner Kemp also serves on the Florida Association of Counties (FAC) Growth, Agriculture, Transportation, Environment (GATE) Policy Committee as a Policy Leader.



Dr. Yogi Goswami, Director, Clean Energy Research Center, University of South Florida

Professor Goswami is the Editor-in-Chief of the *Solar Energy* journal, and *Progress in Solar Energy*. He has published as an author or editor 22 books and more than 400 refereed technical papers. He is a recipient of the highest awards of ASME, ASES, ISES and AAES and more than 50 other awards and certificates from major engineering and scientific societies. Dr. Goswami is a Fellow of AAAS, ASHRAE, ASME, ASES, ISES and the National Academy of Inventors. Prof. Goswami has served as a Governor of ASME, President of the International Solar Energy Society (ISES), Senior Vice President of ASME and President of the International Association for Solar Energy Education (IASEE). He also holds 26 patents and has been inducted in the Florida Inventors Hall of Fame. His invention of Photo-electrochemical oxidation (PECO) technology for air purification, which is commercially available as Molekule, was picked as one of the 25 best inventions by Time magazine.



Dory Larsen, EV Program Coordinator, Southern Alliance for Clean Energy

Dory is working to accelerate the transition to electric vehicles by promoting the growth of electric vehicle ownership and supporting EV friendly policy and programs. Central to her work is educating and engaging stakeholders, identifying strategic policy to propel EV usage, and advocating for comprehensive EV infrastructure. She was recently appointed to the Board of Drive Electric Florida and to the City of Tarpon Springs Citizen Advisory Sustainability Committee. She is a graduate of the University of South Florida with a Master of Public Health degree and received her Bachelor of Science degree in Biology from Florida Southern College. Before joining SACE, Dory worked as a science educator in the public-school system and as an instructional trainer. She is passionate about helping people see the strength in working collectively to solve problems.



Bryan Beckman, Volunteer, Sierra Club Ready for 100

Bryan recently retired from Mondelez international where he was responsible for Global Logistics Systems. Bryan is currently a volunteer with Suncoast Sierra, leading the Pinellas Ready for 100 campaign. In 2018 and 2019, he led the Largo and Safety Harbor Ready for 100 campaigns, which resulted in city resolutions to achieve 100% renewable energy by 2035. He is currently the campaign manager for his wife's, Kathleen Beckman, campaign for Clearwater City Council. He also enjoys spending much of his time volunteering, helping non-profits, churches, and other organizations save energy, money, and lessen their collective impact on the environment.



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Lynn Nilssen, Manatee-Sarasota Sierra Ready for 100, Green Realtors Alliance Sarasota

Lynn is a financial analyst-turned-realtor who specializes in the marketing and sale of sustainable real estate. She served as an instructor for the National Association of Realtors GREEN designation and was also a FL Green Building Coalition Certifying Agent. She is a founding member of the Green Realtors Alliance of Sarasota, two-time Solar United Neighbors co-op organizer, Master Conservationist, Co-Organizer of the Sarasota Ready for 100 campaign, among other roles. She holds a BS in Business

Administration from American International College.



Dr. Rick Garrity, Solar United Neighbors of Florida Advisory Board, advocacy campaign leader

Dr. Garrity recently retired as Executive Director of the Environmental Protection Commission of Hillsborough County and had held this position since the year 2000. He was responsible for the overall direction of the agency, which staffs more than 130 scientists, engineers and attorneys with the mission of protection of the natural resources, environment, and quality of life in Hillsborough County. Prior to working at EPC, Dr. Garrity was Director of District Management for the Florida Department of

Environmental Protection's Southwest District office in Tampa serving under four gubernatorial administrations.



Alan Brand, Dunedin Committee for Environmental Quality, Sierra Club Suncoast Group

Alan is dedicated to the future of the natural world. He is a member of the City of Dunedin Committee for Environmental Quality and an active volunteer for the Sierra Club. He has a degree in mechanical engineering and experience in the aerospace and automotive industries. His desire to help mitigate climate change led him to install solar power on his own home. In the process, he developed a keen interest in solar power. He studies the local economics of rooftop solar power and started a business

The Solar Shepherd offering solar power system design, consulting and facilitation of installation. He also owns and drives a 100% electric vehicle.



Maria Morales, USF student, Climate Action Coalition, ISES USF, Citizens Climate Lobby

Maria is a senior studying Business Analytics and Information Systems and minor Environmental Policy at the University of South Florida. Here she found her passion for helping to solve the climate crisis and advocate for clean energy. Maria joined Citizens Climate Lobby, Our Climate and a climate policy camp at the American University in DC as a fellow in 2019. A rising leader and advocate, Maria is the co-founder president of the Climate Action Coalition at USF, an officer of the International Solar Energy

Society @ USF, and a team member competing in the Solar District Cup sponsored by the Department of Energy. She's also a resident assistant who supports student success through programs on wellness, interpersonal skills, academic engagement, and global citizenship.



Don Davis, former President of Capital City Bank of Gainesville

Don specialized in financing commercial and residential solar photovoltaic projects between 2008 and his retirement at the end of 2016. He is a graduate of the University of Florida with a major in Finance. Don has served the community and the state of Florida by lending his expertise to the Alachua County Affordable Housing Community, Alachua County Clean Energy Board, CareerSource North Central Florida, Florida Alliance for Renewable Energy and the Florida Chapter of the US Green Building

Council. He was instrumental in forming Green Caffeine and the Gainesville EV Club. He is a graduate of Leadership Gainesville and Leadership Florida. He currently represents Alachua County on the City of Gainesville's Utility Advisory Board.

Solar United Neighbors Speakers



Jody Finver is our South Florida Program Coordinator. Jody is known across South Florida as “Solar Girl” for her work to help her community go solar. She puts her decades of experience as an advertising copywriter and creative director to use creating witty slogans and signage that educate voters and fight for solar rights in Florida. A net-zero rooftop solar customer, EV driver, and local community organizer, she lives by example.



Angela DeMonbreun is our Regional Field Director (FL, TX, AZ, CO) and a fourth generation Floridian. She is passionate about community outreach and believes that informed and engaged voters are key to building an accountable democratic society. Her experience includes project development, grassroots organizing, community engagement, and policy advocacy focusing on capacity building. Previously, Angela served as president of the League of Women Voters Jacksonville First Coast for four years, working to increase informed voter participation through education and still volunteers as their Outreach Director. In 2015, Angela was selected as one of Jacksonville’s Women of Influence.



Erik Mariani supports Solar United Neighbors field programs in Florida and Ohio as a Go Solar Program Coordinator. He is excited to help communities transition to an energy system that is both cleaner and more equitable for everyone. He comes with experience working in hazardous waste mitigation as well as backing the efforts of a sustainability-focused market. He’s excited to pursue an opportunity with distributed solar and renewable energy.



Scott Greenler is our Engagement Specialist who activates people across the country to join in the effort to promote a just and equitable distributed system of solar energy. Before joining to Solar United Neighbors, Scott was a Program Fellow at the Friends Committee on National Legislation, where he advocated for federal policies to address climate change. Scott has also engaged in federal and state political organizing and campaigns in Colorado, where he completed his undergraduate degree in environmental and organismic biology from Fort Lewis College.



Heaven Campbell is our Florida Program Associate and brings her passion and experience in program management, volunteer management, research, capacity-building, diversity and inclusion, and evaluation to her work. She is a native of Florida and proud to say she’s #FreshfromFlorida. She has a Master of Science in Family, Youth and Community Sciences from UF.

Special Thanks to the Solar United Neighbors of Florida Advisory Board for their dedication to growing solar energy access and equity in Florida:



Chris Castro



Dr. Rick Garrity



Deirdre Macnab



Michael Cohen



Mary Dipboye